



2834

00862.022461

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Dang D. Le
KEIJI EMOTO, ET AL.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2834
Application No.: 09/998,691	)	
	:	
Filed: December 3, 2001	)	
	:	
For: LINEAR MOTOR AND EXPOSURE	)	July 3, 2003
APPARATUS USING THE SAME	:	



COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated June 10, 2003.

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement between six groups of claims. Group I, Claims 1-10, is drawn to the apparatus of a linear motor. Group II, Claim 11, is drawn to the method of manufacturing a linear motor. Group III, Claims 12-14, 20, and 21, is drawn to the apparatus of an exposure machine. Group IV, Claims 15-17, is drawn to the method of making a semiconductor device. Group V, Claim 18, is drawn to a semiconductor-manufacturing factory. Group VI, Claim 19, is drawn to a maintenance method.

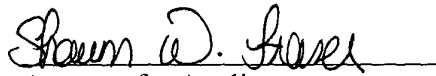
In the Office Action, it is alleged that Groups I through VI are patentably distinct species and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications. These contentions are respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the amount of effort required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office would be lessened by permitting all of the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of five additional applications, consisting of the same disclosure and being subjected to substantially the same search, perhaps by a different Examiner on a different occasion, with the resultant burden on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction and allow the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, directed to Claims 1-10.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are also requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shawn W. Fraser", is written over a horizontal line.

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